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Representative Steve Kirby

29th District

January 2006

Dear Neighbor,

The 2006 session has begun and I just wanted to give you an idea of what I'm thinking as I focus my life on the legislature for the next couple months.

Budget

You don't have to hide your wallets this year. Seems we have a little different kind of budget problem. Last year we were told that we were a couple billion dollars in the hole, so we had to cut services and raise a few taxes. As it turns out, this year we have about a billion-and-a-half dollar budget surplus. I've already introduced bills for consideration in the House Finance Committee to roll back last year's tax increases.

Public Safety

It's no longer a controversial assertion that Pierce County is the biggest importer of criminals and sex offenders in the state, resulting in disproportionately high crime rates and expenses at the local level. The Pierce County delegation routinely fights to get other communities to accept their fair share of these folks, only to be out-voted by politicians from other places.

This year I'm sponsoring a bill to require criminals and mentally ill inmates to be released into the county from which they entered the system. I'm also working on bills to allow local governments in jurisdictions with more than their fair share of sex offenders to impose bonding requirements and impact fees on landlords who choose to house Level 3 sex offenders, and to limit population densities of sex offenders within certain communities.

Medical Malpractice

Now that the two initiatives have been rejected, I'll continue to be involved in developing legislation regarding insurance reform, patient safety and civil justice reform.

Consumer Protection

I'll be working on several bills left over from last session to prohibit life insurance companies from having access to our DNA, prohibit auto insurance companies from owning body shops, limit the use of credit scoring by insurance companies, regulating payday lenders and toughening license requirements for mortgage brokers.

That oughta keep me busy! I'll do my best to keep you informed as things happen.

Best Wishes,

Steve Kirby

State Representative
29th District

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assertion that Pierce County
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29th District**



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